



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health and Family Services**

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Helene Nelson, Secretary

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**For Immediate Release**

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**CHECK FOR RADON DURING WINTER MONTHS**  
*State Hotline Available to Help People with Radon Questions*

MADISON - The Department of Health and Family Services advises people to test for radon in their homes during the winter months.

“Winter weather means homes are sealed to keep out the cold and people spend more time inside their homes,” said Conrad Weiffenbach, manager of the radon program at the Department. “We strongly encourage people to test their home for radon because breathing air with high concentrations could possibly lead to lung cancer.”

Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless radioactive gas that comes from trace amounts of uranium in the ground. The gas can seep into homes through the foundation and neighboring houses can have different concentrations of radon. It is estimated that about 5-10 percent of homes in Wisconsin will have elevated levels of radon. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon causes several thousand preventable lung cancer deaths nationally each year.

Radon is easy to measure with test kits that can be obtained from hardware stores for about \$20. Most local public health agencies also have the kits or can tell you where to get one. The test kits provide information on how to collect the sample and where to mail the sample you collected.

The Department hosts a statewide toll-free hotline to answer questions about radon, including assistance in interpreting test results at 1-888 LOW-RADON (1-888-569-7236).

You can also visit the Department’s website, [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dph\\_beh/radonprot](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dph_beh/radonprot) to learn more about radon. The information provided includes tips on reducing radon in homes, a list of nationally certified contractors who are able to assist homeowners in fixing radon problems, and guidelines for building new homes that will help prevent or slow radon entry into a home.

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